Our Lady & St Francis Primary Nursery Class
Day Care of Children

Newarthill Road
Carfin
Motherwell
ML1 5AL

Telephone: 01698274947

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 1 December 2016

Service provided by:
North Lanarkshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000237

Care service number:
CS2003015389
About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com.

The service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

The provider of Our Lady & St Francis Primary Nursery Class is North Lanarkshire Council.

Our Lady & St Francis Primary Nursery Class is managed by the head teacher of the school. The nursery is currently registered to provide early learning and childcare to a maximum of 30 children, aged three years to those not yet attending primary school. The nursery offers morning and afternoon session’s term time only. The service is near to local amenities, including motorway and bus routes.

Included in the services aims and objectives is: “To foster the development of each child socially, spiritually, intellectually and physically, in a safe, caring environment where national and local priorities are addressed.”

What people told us

There were a total of 40 children present during the inspection. We observed children who were very happy and having great fun playing and exploring with their friends inside and outdoors. Children interacted and responded very well to the staff caring for them. Staff talked to the children in a respectful and sensitive way. We observed caring, nurturing staff who know the children very well. Staff had fostered very positive relationships with families who use the service.

Some of the children told us how they enjoyed being outside and hiding the shapes so the other children could find them. Others told us they enjoyed the different snacks they could have. Some children were proudly walking about wearing the ‘crown’ which they told us was part of the Christmas play they were taking part in.

We received six returned care standards questionnaires from the ten we asked the provider to distribute before the inspection. We had the opportunity to speak to a further nine parents as part of the inspection process. Both verbal and written comments were extremely positive and confirmed that parents were very happy with the quality of care their child received and the range of experiences their children could take part in. Parents praised the staff and management for being friendly, approachable and supportive. Parental comments included:

“It’s a pleasure to walk into in the morning. The staff are fantastic with the children.”

“My child has settled in very well with the help of the nursery staff. They have thrived in a caring and stimulating environment. I have been very happy with the nursery and its staff.”
Self assessment

The Care Inspectorate received a fully completed self-assessment from the provider. The provider identified what it thought the service did well and gave examples of improvement in their planning format. The self assessment identified some key areas that the provider believed could be improved and showed how the service intended to do this.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

- Quality of care and support: 5 - Very Good
- Quality of environment: 4 - Good
- Quality of staffing: not assessed
- Quality of management and leadership: not assessed

What the service does well

We found the nursery provided a very good standard of care and support to children and their families. Their child centred approach meant children were extremely well supported, nurtured and encouraged to achieve their potential in an inclusive environment.

Management and staff spoke confidently about their roles and responsibilities in protecting children, including the approaches in place to follow up children’s non-attendance at the service. Annual training and regular reviews of these practices supported the staff in keeping their knowledge up to date on how to safeguard children’s wellbeing.

The service’s effective approaches to transitions, which involved staff, parents, children and other professionals, where appropriate, resulted in positive experiences for all. This included flexible settling in arrangements for nursery that were tailored to meet the individual needs of children and their families. Positive links and effective communication with feeder schools were well established. All children had the opportunity to visit and experience the school they were enrolled in, meet staff and have a meaningful awareness into starting school. This helped everyone to feel included and respected.

Comprehensive records enabled staff to get to know each child and plan for their individual health and wellbeing needs, interests and stage of development. Records demonstrated clearly children’s achievements and on-going learning and development. These were regularly reviewed and updated through staff’s observations, partnership working with other professionals and parent’s meetings and events. Staff had accessed specialist training to assist them to meet children’s specific needs.

Since the last inspection, the service had moved accommodation within the school. The environment inside was relaxed and children were confidently engaged in a range of experiences which challenged them. This supported them to be active learners, work as part of a team and assisted their wellbeing.
As a consequence of the outdoor learning space currently not being available for use, alternative arrangements have been implemented. For example: a timetable ensured that all children spent time outdoors in the playgrounds which encouraged them to be active and promoted healthy lifestyles. This meant that children could not independently access outdoors. The service assured us that this is being addressed as a matter of priority. In preparation for this, the manager consulted with parents, children and staff which created plans for free-flow activities outdoors and opportunities to support risk in play. This would give children outdoor access all day and allow them to choose when to use it.

Staff used knowledge gained on training and their awareness of good practice documents to reflect on children’s learning experiences outdoors.

**What the service could do better**

We signposted management and staff to the Scottish Social Services Council ‘Steps into Leadership’ website to further enhance the very good opportunities for distributed leadership roles within the staff group.

**Requirements**

**Number of requirements:** 0

**Recommendations**

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Complaints**

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

**Inspection and grading history**

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